

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 /150 W

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R 182200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4543

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0239

E.O. 11652: XGDS CATEGORY 1

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA ON HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR  
DISPUTE AND RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. I ACCOMPANIED M. GEN MABRY, COMUSARSO, IN COURTESY CALL ON  
PRESIDENT MOLINA LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 16 DURING WHICH MOLINA  
STATED THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.

2. ON SALVADORAN-US RELATIONS: EL SALVADOR IS FIRMLY ON THE SIDE  
OF THE US AND WESTERN ALLIES REGARDLESS OF ANY TRADE RELATIONS  
EL SALVADOR MIGHT ESTABLISH WITH THE SOVIET UNION OR ITS SATELLITES,  
HIS GOVT'S FRIENDSHIP FOR US IS UNSHAKABLE AND HE APPRECIATES  
VERY MUCH THE EFFECTIVE WORK WHICH RECENT US AMBASSADORS BOWDLER  
AND CATTO PERFORMED AND WHICH I AM CARRYING ON TO MAINTAIN  
EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO  
APPRECIATES THE OUTSTANDING VONTRIBUTION OF THE USMILGPS  
AND MISSIONS OVER MANY YEARS OF WORKING WITH SALVADORAN ARMED  
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FORCES.

3. HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE: THIS DISPUTE MILITATES AGAINST THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH DISPUTANT COUNTRIES AND CAME ABOUT AGAINST THE DESIRES OF BOTH GOVTS. HIS GOVT AND THAT OF GEN. LOPEZ ARELLANO ARE BOTH EARNESTLY SEEKING A SOLUTION. THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS BUT THERE ARE STILL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES WHICH, HE BELIEVES, CAN BE RESOLVED. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, WHICH GEN SOMOZA WILL BE HOSTING IN THE NEAR FUTURE, CAN HELP DO SO. HE IS CONVINCED THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND ONLY POLITICALLY-VIABLE MEANS OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE. ASIDE FROM POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS; HE BELIEVES THAT AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE EL SALVADOR CAN ILL AFFORD THE EXPENSE AND EFFORT OF RECURRING TO ADJUDICATION OR ARBITRATION. IT MUST HUSBAND ITS RESOURCES FOR REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. SALVADOR'S DENUNCIATION OF THE PACT OF BOGOTA IN NO WISE DIMINISHED ITS DEDICATION TO THE PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES TO WHICH HIS GOVT IS STILL COMMITTED UNDER RIO TREATY AND UN AND OAS CHARTERS. HIS ARMED FORCES ARE MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATIONS AND LIAISON WITH THEIR HONDURAN COUNTERPARTS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, INCIDENTS, OR ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE DETRIMENTAL TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE OR CAUSE RENEWED HOSTILITIES. HE APPRECIATES THE CONTRIBUTION THE US EMBASSIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE MADE AND CAN MAKE TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE DISPUTANT GOVTS AND THEIR BETTER APPRECIATION OF RELATIVES IN ONE ANOTHERS' COUNTRIES. HE ENCOURAGES US TO CONTINUE THIS ROLE.

5. HOW TO COPE WITH EL SALVADOR'S UNDERDEVELOPED CONDITIONS: HIS GOVT FULLY APPRECIATES THE OVERWHELMING DIMENSIONS OF EL SALVADOR'S UNDERDEVELOPED CONDITION ("WE ARE TRULY AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY AND NOT A 'DEVELOPING COUNTRY' WHICH IS A MISNOMER FOR US"). EL SALVADOR'S ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING TO SAY NOTHING OF TOTAL INADEQUACY OF DISTRIBUTION. POPULATION GROWTH RATE IS UNABATED. ITS OVERDEPENDENCE ON COFFEE FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE MAKES IT HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL FORCES BEYOND ITS CONTROL.

6. HIS GOVT SEEKS TO INITIATE CHANGES IN CONDITIONS  
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SO AS TO BRING ABOUT NECESSARY SOCIAL REFORMS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE IS OPPOSED TO CHANGE THROUGH VIOLENT MEANS OR ANY FORMULAS ADVOCATED BY MARXISM-LENINISM. HE ALSO FINDS UNACCEPTABLE THE CONCEPTS OF THE FEUDAL LANDLORDS. HIS GOVT IS DEDICATED TO ACHIEVING CHANGE BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND THROUGH A STEADY STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS UNDER WHICH THE NATION AND ALL OF ITS PEOPLE MEASURABLY BENEFIT. THIS PROCESS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO EL SALVADOR'S COMMITMENT TO CENTRAL

AMERICANISM AND TO FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USA.

7. SALVADORAN TRADE MISSION TO EASTERN EUROPE: WHILE EL SALVADOR DOES SEEK NEW MARKETS FOR ITS EXPORTS IN EASTERN EUROPE, IT DOES SO WITHOUT ANY PURPOSE OF LESSENING ITS TIES TO THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES TO WHICH IT IS FIRMLY ATTACHED BY COMMON VALUES, HISTORY AND TRADITION. HIS GOVT IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING ONLY TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND WILL "NEVER ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USSR". THEY HAD TO FEIGN INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN ORDER TO ADVANCE SALVADOR'S INTEREST IN TRADE. PRESIDENT FIGUEROA HAS GIVEN HIM A FULL AND CONVINCING ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL HEADACHES WHICH STEM FROM THE EXISTENCE OF A RESIDENT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND HE IS NOT ABOUT TO RISK SUCH PROBLEMS.  
MOSKOWITZ

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